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a man who has a clear understanding of the important problems of our civilization, and the ability to distinguish the important from the unessential." The discovery of such a paragon might possibly be attended with some difficulty.

In addition to the bureau to carry on the routine work of the investigations should be an advisory council to watch over the work, to suggest subjects for investigations, and at times to order special researches.

The book is of interest to American students in that it gives a frank expression of the strong and weak points of the public and private statistical bureaus of a country which, in organization, has much in common with our own, and offers suggestions for improvement which may prove of value to us. The principal criticism is that it seems to lay too much stress upon the opposing interests of the various social and industrial classes.

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WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

*The Numerical Proportion of the Sexes at Birth.* By JOHN BENJAMIN NICHOLS. Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association, Vol. I, Part 4. (Lancaster, Pa.: The New Era Publishing Company, 1907).

In the preparation of this study the author made use of over 693 millions of living births and 13 millions of stillbirths. These were taken from all the countries in the world which could lay claim to furnishing information of reasonable reliability. Since different methods are employed in reporting stillbirths these are not in all cases comparable. Until statistics of greater accuracy are available this study can serve as authority upon this subject.

With two or three exceptions, there was nothing novel brought to light by the investigation. The conclusions which most claim attention are the following: The greater the proportion of stillbirths to total births the less is the ratio of males to females stillborn; the proportion of males to females stillborn is decidedly lower in the illegitimate than in the corresponding legitimate class. The effect of war, and of city and country life upon the proportion of the sexes can not be determined.

W. B. B.